

NSC BRIEFING

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28 September 1955

## NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

I. Conditions in Argentina will be unsettled for some time to come, and difficult see how President Lonardi can comply with stated desire to hold elections in 6 - 7 months.

A. Peronista Party is only one with any organization, and might poll strong plurality, if not majority, if elections held soon.

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B.

Navy is supporting Lonardi, and desires to hold elections in 6 months, but Army says that 18 months needed to pacify country.

II. Service rivalries, as exemplified by Army-

Navy views on elections, may be serious.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

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State Dept. review completed

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A. [redacted] vice President  
(Adm. Rojas) has stated Navy should  
leave government if its demands not met.

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B. [redacted] Lonardi has little  
Army support, and was chosen president  
through intervention of his brother,  
a Rear Admiral.

C. Strong men in Army are Major General  
Julio Lagos and Brig. General Leon  
Bengoa.

D. Lonardi's cabinet made up mainly of  
little-known individuals, and appoint-  
ments not yet final.

III. Meanwhile General Confederation of Labor  
(CGT) maintaining some independence.

A. CGT has made no public profession  
allegiance to new government.

B. Secretary-General (Hugo di Pietro) has  
secured from Lonardi:

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1. Guarantee of Peron's safety
2. No government control of CGT unions
3. All workers' rights to be maintained
4. Government would not deprive CGT of former independent newspaper "La Prensa". (However, court action expected).

IV. Nationalistic influences may be strong in new government.

- A. Pending pact with Standard Oil of 25X1 California will be rejected

25X1

- B. Lonardi has publicly expressed belief pact not advantageous to argentina; said would get equipment "for us to drill on our own".

1. Most anti-Peronistas and some Peronistas opposed pact in past.

- C. However, Lonardi has publicly rejected Peron's "third position" in international affairs.

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V. New government now recognized by 24 countries.

A. In Paraguay, which caught the hot potato, the General Staff is reportedly pressing President Stroessner to permit refugee Peron only a brief in-transit entry.

B. Paraguayan army leaders also reported pressing for ouster pro-Peron elements from Paraguayan government.

1. Chief target, Central Bank President Mendez Fleitas (not Communist but Communist-linked).
2. Mendez ouster would probably threaten stability Paraguayan government.

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C. At least one other LA bully-boy has been inspired by Argentine example to peek behind the arras. 26 Sep arrests of two Venezuelan army officers (on charges conspiracy against government) are attributed by US ambassador to dictator Perez Jimenez's anxiety roused by Peron ouster.

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